FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1987

Gulf War

Iraqi Gulf Raids — "Scores" of Iraqi aircraft participated in attacks on Iran's Cyrus and Nowruz oil fields 23 March, hitting oil platforms and setting them on fire, Iraq announced in military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi aircraft had raided the Ardeshir oil field the previous day, setting an oil platform on fire and reducing it to rubble, according to a military communique broadcast by the radio. Iraqi spokesmen cited by the radio also announced air attacks on two maritime targets off the Iranian coast over the weekend,

Iran Warning on Gulf — Iran will "decisively counter" any foreign presence that increases instability and tension in the Gulf and it warns the United States and other foreign powers that any interference by them will meet with a "strong response." This warning was contained in a statement by an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, broadcast by Tehran radio 22 March. The spokesman condemned "baseless reports" about Iranian intentions to threaten the security of shipping in the Gulf, asserting that the United States is using such "misleading propaganda" to build up its military presence in the region. The United States has repeatedly created such climates in order to achieve its "sinister" objectives, the spokesman said, but the "interesting issue" this time is "the treacherous response demonstrated by some countries of the region." On the same subject, President 'Ali Khamene'i expressed regret over Kuwait's welcome for an extension of the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, the radio reported. Noting satellite reports that Iranian missiles are "pointed at the Persian Gulf," Khamene'i stressed that as Iran has the longest coastline in the Gulf it has "every right to maintain security" there.

New Year Speeches — Last year was one of "triumph and glory" in which Iran achieved "massive victories" and overcame "vicissitudes and tribulations," President Khamene'i asserted in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio at the start of the new Iranian year on 21 March. Iran has come a long way in the 8 years since the revolution, but there is still a long way to go, he said, adding that the new year will be one of great efforts and greater successes. The radio also broadcast a new year speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who reaffirmed the need for fraternity among the different branches of the Armed Forces and warned that Iran could "lose everything" if it permits internal conflicts and the pursuit of "worldly desires."

President Saddam Husayn stated that Iraqis are celebrating Iran's failure to realize its "abysmal slogan" of defeating Iraq during the past year, maintaining that "the evil conspiracy has been destroyed and its wind has receded." Speaking in a 22 March message broadcast by Baghdad radio, the Iraqi leader nevertheless warned that "further vigilance and preparedness is required" because "some poison still remains in the fangs of the dying serpent," which "is still capable of biting although its backbone has been broken."

Lebanon

Security Situation — Israeli aircraft raided "terrorist" targets near Sidon on 20 and 23 March, according to IDF announcements cited by Jerusalem radio. IDF radio said the 23 March raids were on a 2-storey building housing the command of one of the "Palestinian terrorist organizations." Palestinian sources cited by Beirut radio said the attacks destroyed a Fatah office building, killing one person and wounding three. The 20 March attack on Palestinian military positions in the same area wounded one person, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon

Meanwhile, two IDF soldiers were slightly wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in the Israeli security zone on 20 March, the second such incident in a week, Jerusalem radio noted. The Fatah Revolutionary Council issued a statement claiming responsibility for a 21 March cross-border rocket attack on parts of western Galilee, which injured 10 people, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio, however, maintained there were no injuries in the attack.

As for the Amal-Palestinian conflict, Beirut radio reported that further violent clashes in Burj al-Barajinah caused the airport road to be closed on 22 March.

Talks With Syria — Lebanese-Syrian talks in Damascus achieved "noticeable progress and further positive results," Radio Monte Carlo reported citing Lebanese sources. According to the sources, "all the unresolved problems were overcome" except for the sharing of power between the president and the cabinet. However, Syrian Foreign Ministry officials said this optimism was "exaggerated" and "no measurable progress was achieved" in resolving the two problems of power sharing and abolishing sectarianism, according to another Radio Monte Carlo report.

Walid Junblatt called the papers submitted in Damascus "sectarian" and voiced "major reservations" about them, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. The PSP leader called for an extension of the security plan to cover "everyone" and said he would talk to Syrian officials about the future of political action in Beirut.

Hostage Release — Saudi hostage Khalid al-Dib, who was kidnapped 26 January, was released on 20 February, the Amal Movement announced at a news conference reported by Beirut radio.

Libya

Fall of Chad Base — Chadian forces captured Ouadi Doum 22 March, gaining control of the "strongest and most deadly" Libyan position on Chadian soil, the Chadian military command

announced in a statement broadcast by Ndjamena radio. A GUNT spokesman cited by Tripoli television acknowledged that "fierce battles" were raging in the Ouadi Doum area but claimed that the forces of "lackey" Hissein Habre were "completely crushed." He added that GUNT took a large number of prisoners including French Foreign Legionnaires, Zairians, and black Americans.

Chadian military communiques carried by Ndjamena radio had earlier announced major successes against Libyan forces in the area, asserting that 786 Libyans were killed and 121 were captured in heavy fighting 45 km from Ouadi Doum 19-20 March. A Libyan Marchetti aircraft was reportedly shot down and the Chadians captured or destroyed 38 T-55 tanks and 40 BMP armored vehicles. Libya responded to these defeats with further air attacks on Fada, Ndjamena radio said. Another communique carried by the radio reported that 61 Libyans were killed in a 22 March battle near Zouar.

Terrorism — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi aired his views on terrorism in a 20 March address broadcast by Tripoli television and relayed by satellite to an international conference on terrorism in Geneva. Among Al-Qadhdhafi's accusations against the United States was his claim that the AIDS virus resulted from U.S. experiments in germ warfare. U.S. warnings that Libya is preparing to resume terrorist attacks were subsequently dismissed by JANA as "prattle and vile talk."

Egypt

Internal Situation — The authorities arrested 30 members of radical Islamic groups who participated in violent demonstrations in Sawhaj 20 March, MENA reported. The demonstrators had attacked a police force which attempted to disperse them, the agency said, adding that 11 policemen and 11 fundamentalists were injured in the ensuing violence. In another development, MENA disclosed that an NPUG candidate for the People's Assembly has been arrested on charges of inciting sectarian sedition in Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate. The candidate was among 48 Muslims and Christians arrested after an outbreak of violence in which a woman was killed and several citizens were injured in arson attacks on 20 March. A Cairo radio commentary accused "certain religious groups" of seeking to seize power through violence and criticized "certain political parties" which have fallen into a "trap" set by the Islamic extremists.

Husayn Visit — President Husni Mubarak received visiting Jordanian King Husayn 22 March, MENA reported, adding that the talks are part of "ongoing consultations and coordination efforts" aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East. In remarks broadcast by Amman television at the conclusion of his visit, Husayn noted that the talks also covered the Iran-Iraq war, adding that "our stand is clear concerning our support for Iraq." Radio Monte Carlo said the talks dealt with the "serious situation" in the Gulf arising from Iran's missile deployment along the northern coast of the Hormuz Strait.

Relations With USSR — Cairo "press sources" stated that Mubarak will visit Moscow later this year, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. An "informed" Egyptian source cited by AFP stated that the Egyptian-Soviet economic protocol signed in Moscow 20 March provides for the rescheduling of Egypt's debts to the USSR.

Israel

Pollard Affair — The government will safeguard the immunity of those who testify before the Pollard fact-finding committee, Jerusalem radio reported citing senior political sources. The attorney for three of those involved, however, rejected the prime minister's appeal for them to testify, saying there is no guarantee testimonies will not be given to the United States, the radio added. According to the economics and planning minister cited by IDF radio, if no arrangement is found within a few days, the cabinet must initiate the establishment of a legal inquiry commission on the affair.

Relations With USSR — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has "guaranteed" that Israeli conditions of renewed diplomatic ties for including the USSR in an international conference on the Middle East "will be no obstacle," *Ha'aretz* contended.

PLO Affairs

A Fatah statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio 22 March confirmed that the 18th PNC will begin in Algeria 20 April and called on all Palestinian factions to participate in a preparatory meeting scheduled for 10 April. It expressed Fatah's support for submitting a declaration to the PNC on the cancellation of the agreement with Jordan and reaffirmed the movement's belief in armed struggle. The Fatah statement, which was also carried by Tripoli radio, praised Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi's "pan-Arab" role and his support for Palestinian unity.

DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah stated earlier after meeting with PNSF officials in Libya that there is now "no pretext for anyone to remain outside the framework of Palestinian unity," according to Radio Monte Carlo. Hawatimah noted that proposals for the abrogation of the Amman agreement and for the formation of a collective PLO leadership will be considered at the 10 April preparatory meeting in Algiers. The Kuwaiti paper *Al-Siyasah* reported that Fatah leaders have agreed to the formation of a collective PLO leadership, a move which is aimed at curtailing Yasir 'Arafat's powers as chairman of the executive committee and commander in chief of Palestinian forces.

PDRY-YAR

PDRY President Abu Bakr al-'Attas affirmed he is ready to resume reconciliation talks with the YAR "at any time and in any place," AFP reported citing the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad*.

Djibouti Arrests

A Tunisian who admits responsibility for the 18 March bomb explosion in a Djibouti cafe has disclosed that he was recruited in Damascus, the Djibouti president announced in remarks reported by Paris radio. The Tunisian, who was arrested along with a Kuwaiti, said he belongs to the "troops of the revolutionaries and resistance fighters."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Najibullah Delivers Message Welcoming New Year
LD202303 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Mar 87

[New Year's message from the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Council of Ministers, read by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee — recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, during the past year we have spoken to you on various occasions. We have consulted on many domestic and foreign issues. In the past year there were delightful events and happenings. However, we should not hide the fact that there were also difficulties.

Today's talk is taking place at a time when our houses are full of happiness and pleasure on the occasion of the arrival of the new year. In such a moment one would like to look at the past and clearly visualize the future in the light of experience gained.

Spring, the messenger of beauty, must transform the heart of each one of us into a place for love and fraternity. If love finds a place in the heart, hate leaves and makes room for fraternity and a peaceful life.

Spring is the best and most beautiful demonstration of nature. With the arrival of spring, free birds begin to sing and fly everywhere. The subject of all those songs that please mankind's ears is praise for beauty, freedom, and peace. Peace and freedom explain the meaning of beauty and creativity; only under peace does man create life, beauty, prosperity, and a tranquil future.

Without a doubt the past year has left behind profound results. The past year was one aimed at searching for peace in the region and in our ancestor's home — beloved Afghanistan — whose name in the world has become a symbol of struggle for the prosperity of persecuted people, a symbol of sheer determination of the people for victory.

The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government, are profoundly thankful to all compatriots and various strata of the people for their all-round support expressed during the past year.

From the depth of our hearts we are grateful to our friends, particularly the Soviet brothers who in difficult days extended their internationalist assistance to us and who have shared their bread with us.

We have solved a series of problems and have talked with all in the language of peace and truth.

In the past year we carried on useful talks with our neighbors. We embarked on praiseworthy initiatives for peace in the region. As far as the last round of talks in Geneva with Pakistan is concerned, I must say that the Afghan side, in following the peaceful policy of our country, once again expressed good will and strived to gain a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. In the future, too, we will spare no effort in search of a constructive accord acceptable to both sides.

Our national reconciliation policy was supported by young and old, by friends, and also by those who before 15 January had looked at us with suspicion and doubt. They were wary of being deceived again. I must point out with delight that the aspiration of thousands of our compatriots has been realized. They have once again gained what they had lost. Their ancestors' homeland welcomed them with a warm heart.

Spring changes everything in nature. With the arrival of spring everything around us blossoms. Spring brings prosperity and pleasure. We are hoping that our compatriots far away from the homeland, together with the spring roses, return to their ancestors' land and resume their peaceful and prosperous life under the peaceful and pure sky of the homeland. At this very moment, despite the lies, accusations, and fabrications by the West against us, thousands of our compatriots are returning to their ancestors' country. Thousands of former armed groups and members of opposition groups have laid down their weapons and joined their brethren.

It is natural that in every family their members sometimes get upset with one another. However, this annoyance is solved among the members of the family themselves, as all members of the family deeply love each other. Afghanistan is also a large family and we believe fully that all its members will once again gather around each other, sincerely talk to each other, and forget the unpleasant past. Our proud traditions of the new year also demand this.

We are confident that our compatriots will come together and work for abundance, blessing, blossoming, ability, family prosperity, and authority at the international level. We hope that they will take advantage of peaceful life and all its blessings.

The continuation of the undeclared war brings about meaningless fratricide, bloodshed, sorrow, pain, and destruction and ends up weakening our proud country.

Peace brings life, prosperity, pleasure, and abundance. The war has caused grief and pain to thousands of our family. The war has separated mother from son, sister from brother, innocent child from father, and wife from husband.

I say clearly there are many tasks before us. In the past year we managed to accomplish much in the economic and cultural fields. We must sincerely work and commission dozens of new enterprises to realize the 5-year plan. We have to enhance the life of the peasants, gardeners, farmers, and tradesman in villages and hamlets, and to work hard for the defense of the country.

The National Reconciliation Commission must work indefatigably so that our returning compatriots feel the warmth of the hearts and the arms of their brethren and perceive the power and undoubted unity of our multinational people from the beginning.

Dear friends, there are many formidable tasks before us and they will not be easy. We must carry out all our own tasks; no one else will do our work. They cannot solve our problems. We have the support of the people and powerful party unity to accomplish what we must. Really [word indistinct] this means that each one of us should work with extra energy.

We have embarked on the road of profound transformation, and we have made this choice together with you. Either we must succeed and make our persecuted people prosperous, or history will make a mockery of us. However history (?likes) truth and truth is with us and we will succeed. We are determined never to be embarrassed or ashamed vis-a-vis history and before the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan.

Dear friends, may every day be New Year's Day and may your new year be prosperous.

This year we have announced the start of the national reconciliation policy. Next year we will succeed in accomplishing the peace desired for a long time by our people.

Dear compatriots, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Council of Ministers, and NF, I congratulate you on the Festival of spring and wish you prosperity, good health, and further successes. Let the light and glory of the New Year Festival (?cover) our homes, our dwellings, and tents. Let the joy of the new year penetrate your hearts, which love beauty and justice.

I wish all of you good health, peace, abundance, enormous success in work, defense of the homeland, service for the ideal of peace and peaceful coexistence, and success in life, education, and creativity.

Congratulations on the new year and the new spring.

Najibullah, Keshtmand Attend Kabul Ceremony
LD220626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Kabul, March 21, BAKHTAR — The sacred banners of Hazrat-e-Ali, the 4th Kaliph of Islam, were hoisted today in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh Province, amid the cheerful sentiments of thousands of people.

Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other high-ranking party and state officials participated in the ceremony of Sakhi shrine held in Kabul. [passage omitted]

[Kabul Domestic Service in Dari at 1600 GMT on 21 March 1987 reports that Najib and Keshtmand were accompanied by Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, minister of state security; and 'Abdol Zohur Razmjo, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the Kabul city party committee.]

Delhi, USSR Agree on 'Further Cooperation'

BK210950 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed on further cooperation in several areas of science and technology. A delegation of Indian scientists will visit Moscow in June to finalize long-term arrangements.

The agreement came at the end of extensive talks between the visiting Soviet delegation led by the president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Mr Marchuk, and the Indian side, headed by Professor C.N.R. Rao, in New Delhi. A number of areas have been identified during the talks for project-oriented activities. These include biotechnology, immunology, material science, laser, space science, and radiation. Earlier, addressing the Indian National Science Academy in New Delhi, he [Marchuk] said the Soviet Union has already started the production of supercomputers as there is a great demand for this in different fields, especially designing and weather forecasting. He said the Soviet technologists have also taken the lead in the manufacture of software.

Measures To Be Taken To Bridge Widening Trade Gap

BK221400 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 MAR 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have decided to take a number of urgent measures to bridge the widening trade gap. The Soviet Union has promised to increase its purchase of Indian machinery and equipment, shoe uppers, cables, and other traditional Indian goods. The Soviet officials are optimistic that the trade gap would be considerably reduced during the current year.

The trade between India and East Germany went up from 2 million rupees in the mid 50's to 2.5 billion rupees in 1986. This was stated by the Indian ambassador, Mr Prem Kumar Budhwar, at the Leipzig spring fair in East Germany. The trade is expected to double by the end of this decade.

Security Measures Taken for 3 States' Elections

BK220448 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] The stage is set for tomorrow's assembly elections in Kerala, West Bengal, and Jammu and Kashmir. While electioneering ended last evening, workers belonging to different political parties have fanned out to all the rural and urban areas for conducting door to door canvassing. Polling staff have started reaching their places of duty and the required election materials such as ballot boxes have already been dispatched. The authorities have all taken the required steps to ensure an orderly and peaceful poll. Five hundred and five constituencies in three states will be electing their representatives from out of three thousand two hundred aspirants. Two hundred and ninty four assembly seats in West Bengal, one hundred and thirty-eight in Kerala, and seventy-three in Jammu and Kashmir are to be filled in tomorrow's poll. Election in two constituencies in Kerala and one in Jammu and Kashmir has been countermanded. Polling in Leh and Khargil have been put off till June.

By-elections are being held tomorrow for three Lok Sabha and eight assembly seats. The parliamentary constituencies are Nanded in Maharasthra, Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh, and Hardwar in Uttar Pradesh. Of the eight assembly constituencies two are in Andhra Pradesh, three in Uttar Pradesh, and one each in Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union territory of Pondicherry.

Polling will commence at 0730 and close at 1530 in West Bengal. It will be between 0800 and 1600 in Kerala and between 0830 and 1630 in Jammu and Kashmir. Reinforcements of central paramilitary forces have been sent to sensitive pockets in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir. The West Bengal home secretary, Mr Krishnamurthy, has said 160 companies of central paramilitary forces are being deployed in addition to over 1.30 lakh state police personnel to ensure a free and fair poll. He said about 10,000 polling booths have been earmarked as sensitive where special security arrangements have been made to prevent any untoward incident. The Kerala chief minister, Mr Karunakaran, said in Cochin last night that all arrangements have been made for a smooth and orderly conduct of tomorrow's poll and appealed to the electorate to excercise their franchise freely and without fear.

Strike in Gujarat Protests Police 'Atrocities'

BK210907 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Gujarat today to protest against the alleged police atrocities on a farmers rally on Thursday [19 March]. Eight persons were killed and over 50 injured in the violence. Reports say that the statewide bundh called by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh [Indian Farmers Association] has evoked a partial response.

While life in cities remained normal, the impact was felt in rural areas. Bus services remained paralyzed in most parts of the state. According to the chief minister, the bundh has affected Sabarkanta, Mehsana, and Khera. Shops, markets, educational institutions, and offices were closed in these districts. Some incidents of arson and stone throwing have been reported from Banaskanta and Baroda Districts.

Situation Reported 'Peaceful'

BK221602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] In Gujarat, the situation remained peaceful today barring a few incidents after the withdrawal of the statewide village bundh [strike] by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh to protest against the alleged police atrocities. However, the state transport bus services remained affected in some parts of the state.

In Baroda District, the police resorted to fire 14 rounds to disperse an unruly mob indulging in stone pelting at Dhaboi Town this evening.

Meanwhile, a section of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh has disassociated itself from the agreement reached yesterday between the state government and the Sangh.

1 Arrested in Connection With Railway Explosion

BK210929 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, about 250 kg of explosives packed in 10 bags were recovered by the police near Muttupet in Tanjore District yesterday. One person has been arrested. One person said to be behind the blast of the Maruthaiyar railway bridge last Sunday [15 March] in the state has been arrested. According to the state police, the person identified as (Pichai Pillay) belongs to an extremist group called the Tamil Nadu Freedom Army, owing allegiance to the CPI Marxist-Leninist group. Explosive gelignite sticks were recovered from him. At least 25 persons were killed and about 200 injured when the Rock Fort Express fell from the bridge following the blast.

Police Seize Explosives

BK220318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, police have recovered a large quantity of explosives from a shop at Usilampatti near Madura. According to official sources, the police party, on a tip-off, searched the shop and seized explosives which included 200 detonators and 84 electric detonators. One person has been arrested and investigation is in progress.

Curfew Imposed in Madhya Pradesh Towns 20 March

BK210425 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, Ashta town in Sehore District was brought under 24-hour curfew yesterday afternoon following some incidents of stone throwing on a procession. A few incidents of arson have also been reported from the town. The old city area of Bhopal is under a 48-hour curfew following tension between two groups of people. The situation is reported to be under control and police patrolling has been intensified.

Day Curfew Lifted

BK220850 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Day curfew was lifted from all Bhopal areas from 1300 this afternoon following improvement in the situation. However, night curfew will continue till Tuesday. A 2-hour relaxation was given in the morning.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Issue National Day Messages

BK230321 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Pakistan Day is being celebrated today with great enthusiasm and renewed determination to make the country strong and formidable. In a message to the nation, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said it is the day of thanksgiving and self-accountability. It marks the 47th anniversary of our historic pledge and unforgettable resolution to achieve a separate homeland. On this day, we should look back to see whether we have actually attained the goal we set on 23 March 1940. He said the foundations of an islamic welfare state have been laid in the country and it is now our duty to build a magnificent edifice on this foundation and to take our people and country to the goals of further development and prosperity. He said Pakistan could play its full historical role on this day for the further glory of Islam and the development and progress of the Islamic world.

In Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo's message, he stressed the need to maintain unity and cohesion at all levels so as to bring about harmony and development in the country. He said it is our national duty to remain steadfast and united for the complete realization of the ideals and aspirations for which Pakistan was created. The prime minister said the present elected democratic government, in power for the last 2 years, has the honor of starting a new era of progress and prosperity for the people of Pakistan. He said we are strongly determined to consolidate the democratic system; and Islamic ideology is the basis of our policies and actions. [passage omitted on national day celebration].

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Arrives in Karachi

BK201138 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The Zimbabwe prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, was accorded a warm welcome on arrival in Karachi today on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. The Zimbabwe prime minister was received by the Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabani. From the airport, Mr Robert Mugabe drove to the mazhar [mausoleum] of the Qaide Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] and laid a wreath. Paying homage to the Qaide he wrote in the visitor's book that the Qaide Azam shall live in spirit among the people in Pakistan and also among the freedom-loving world, including Zimbabwe.

Attends Dinner Hosted by Junejo

BK210551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan and Zimbabwe have expressed the hope that the continuous international support, especially that of the Nonaligned Movement, will play a decisive role in the just solution of the world problems including that of Afghanistan. Speaking at the dinner hosted by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in honor of Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe in Rawalpindi last night, the two prime ministers demanded an end to foreign intervention in Afghanistan and restoration of the right of self-determination of the people there.

In his speech the Zimbabwean prime minister said his country is deeply concerned over the unresolved conflicts in several countries including Afghanistan and Kampuchea. He said the Government and the people of Zimbabwe desire the peaceful settlement of these problems. Referring to the southern areas of Africa, he said due to the tension caused by the racist regime in South Africa, the region is facing critical danger. With its racial discrimination the Pretoria regime is causing injustice and domination to the people of South Africa and is also making neighboring countries economically and militarily weak. On Pakistani-Zimbabwean relations he said these relations are based on common principles, both countries believing in honoring fraternity, freedom and stability, and international peace and security.

Mohammad Khan Junejo referred to the pathetic situation in Afghanistan and its strategic significance and influence on regional security. He said there has been some progress made in the Geneva talks [UN-sponsored, indirect talks on Afghanistan between Pakistan and Afghanistan] for an honorable solution to the Afghanistan problem. He expressed the hope that owing to the sincere intentions of the parties at the talks this issue will be settled and more than 3 million Afghan refugees will be able to go back to their country. The prime minister said that Pakistan is proud of taking part in the valiant struggle of the people of Zimbabawe for freedom. He lauded Robert Mugabe's efforts as the leader of the Nonaligned Movement. He said Zimbabwe is not only an important country in Africa, but it is also a tower of new light of all efforts for freedom. He said Pakistan and Zimbabwe have identical views on all vital regional and global issues. Pakistan views with respect its relations with Zimbabwe. The prime minister said both countries should make their cordial relations more meaningful and solid. He expressed the hope that at the talks between the delegations of the two countries areas of cooperation between the two countries will be identified.

Mohammad Khan Junejo also referred to Pakistan's relations with India and said that Pakistan's policy is to establish good, neighborly relations with India. He referred to Pakistan's many constructive steps in this connection designed to speed up the process of normalizing relations.

Both prime ministers stressed the need for solving the Middle East problem and said the basic reason for instability in the region is the Palestinian problem.

Holds 'Formal Talks' With Junejo

BK211137 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Formal talks between the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and the Zimbabwe prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, were held in Rawalpindi today. The discussions, held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, focused on cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, irrigation and power, technology, and defense training. Special reference was made to the deputation of senior Pakistan Air Force personnel for training and command of the Air Force of Zimbabwe during 1983-85. Both the sides shared gratification at the existing cordial relations between the two countries. The prime minister, Mr

Mohammad Khan Junejo, expressed the hope that the current visit of Prime Minister Mugabe will further strengthen these ties and expand cooperation in various fields between the two countries. The prime minister of Zimbabwe warmly reciprocated the sentiments of friendship implicit in the invitation extended to him to be the chief guest at the Pakistan Day celebrations.

Speaks at Dinner Hosted by Ziaul Haq

BK220255 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the Nonaligned Movement is a matter of strength to those nations trying to obtain an honorable position in the comity of nations. He said this while addressing a dinner in Rawalpindi yesterday which he hosted in honor of Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. He said Pakistan has strong faith in the Nonaligned Movement and it is strictly following its principles. He expressed the hope that the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement will be successful in solving major problems confronting them.

In his speech the Zimbabwean prime minister said the stand and views of Pakistan and his country on major global issues are identical. These issues include matters like the presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan, and Israel's conspiracy to eliminate the Palestinian Liberation Organization. He said relations between Pakistan and Zimbabwe are based on cooperation in the fields of politics, economics, the military, science, and sports and culture. He stressed the need for promoting the existing cooperation on both governmental and local levels. He thanked the president of Pakistan for awarding scholarships to Zimbabwean students.

The dinner was attended by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaw Khan, National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Local Administration Minister Anwar Aziz Chaudhary, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, elected representatives, senior officials, and members of the Zimbabwean prime minister's delegation also attended the dinner.

Speaks on Arms Control, Lebanon

MB221159 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has appealed to the Soviet Union and America to adopt compromising stands in their arms controlling negotiations in order to end the threat of nuclear holocaust. Speaking in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he is on an official visit, Comrade Mugabe said the resources spent in the manufacture of nuclear weapons should be used to alleviate human suffering.

On southern Africa, Comrade Mugabe said the Frontline States are determined to frustrate South Africa's destabilization activities, adding that Zimbabweans were fighting alongside Mozambicans as part of efforts to end South African-sponsored banditry. The prime minister, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, also condemned the seige of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and criticized Zionist Israel and its allies for committing genocide against Palestinians.

Views Cooperation With Junejo

MB230703 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, last night held a second round of talks in Islamabad. The talks lasted 1 hour, during which the two leaders agreed to increase cooperation between the two states in the fields of defense, education, and technology.

The ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation] representative in the Pakistani capital reports that an expert will be sent on [word indistinct] to Zimbabwe to assist in the development of Zimbabwe's palm oil industry. In addition, Pakistan offered 30 scholarships to Zimbabwean students to study in that country over the next 5 years.

The Pakistan leader, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has given Zimbabwe machinery for sugar and cement industries on a deferred payment basis.

Nuclear Energy for Nonpeaceful Purposes 'Discarded'

BK210838 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has declared that Pakistan has deliberately and unilaterally discarded the use of nuclear energy for nonpeaceful purposes. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Atom for Development Expo 1987 organized by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in Islamabad this morning. The president emphasized that Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely peaceful, for the welfare of our people and the development of our economy. Referring to various statements and accusations being made about Pakistan's nuclear program, he said they were totally fabricated and utterly false. In fact they are totally incorrect. He said Pakistan has not made an atomic bomb. Pakistan does not have it and it has no intention of having it. He said the peaceful use of nuclear energy in various socioeconomic sectors of the country is the (?essence) of Pakistani nuclear program. He said it is Pakistan's firm belief that nuclear arms do not enhance security of small countries.

Press Note Issued on Sind Medical College Shooting

BK221732 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi South District magistrate says that a group of students opened fire at 1200 in the Sind Medical College today. The police had to enter the college to prevent any major incident. During a search of college premises, six weapons, including a tear gas gun, were recovered from the students. Some persons from inside the Sind Medical College hostel also fired on parked vehicles and on the policemen on duty

there. Additional weapons, including bullets and cartridges, were recovered during a search of the hostel. A person, carrying a revolver, found disrupting traffic near a hotel was arrested. He was injured when fired upon by two unknown persons while he was being carried away in a police pickup van. He later died from his injuries in the hospital. A car used in this operation was confiscated on the premises of the Sind Medical College hostel. The Karachi South District magistrate has ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of this person. [Words indistinct] Humayun Asghar Ansari has been appointed inquiry officer. The Sind Medical College has been closed until further notice.

NEPAL

1 Killed, 4 Injured in Election Violence

BK220829 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Katmandu, March 22 (AFP) — At least one person was killed and four injured as election violence hit more than 40 of the 2,000 villages involved in local elections, officials said here Sunday. An official spokesman for the Chief Election Commission said that polling had been held "peacefully and successfully" in most villages Saturday, but that polling had been postponed in 44 areas, including Butwal where the death was reported, because of clashes between rival groups. Voter turnout ranged between 60 and 90 percent in Saturday's polling covering 10 districts, the official added.

One woman was killed and four people injured, one critically, when police opened fire on a crowd in Butwal in the southwest of the country Saturday, a reliable local Panchayat (assembly) source said Sunday. However, an official source said that the woman was killed in a stampede when supporters of the banned Nepali Congress clashed with local Panchayat workers in a protest against alleged poll rigging. He would not confirm that police had opened fire. A pro-Panchayat hardliner group had allegedly tried to rig the ballot and seized an election booth, sparking the violence. The Panchayat source said violence had been reported in 44 of the 2,000 polling areas involved in village Panchayat elections.

The banned Nepali Congress, the largest opposition party, was taking part in elections for the first time in the 25-year history of Nepal's partyless Panchayat system. The party has a strong influence in Butwal, Bhairahawa, and other tropical regions bordering India's Bihar and Uttar Pradesh States.

Nepal's Panchayat system does without political parties, and the election commission refused to recognise the party as such as taking part in the elections, but the Congress went ahead. "We are participating in the elections because the issues are mostly non-political at this level and... more related to the development of the region or towns concerned," party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said before the polls. Marxist and Leninist groups are also taking part in the local elections, but analysts said they had a tough battle against Panchayat cadres with experience of 25 years of polling.

Five districts in the southwest voted Tuesday, and the Nepali Congress reportedly failed to gather much support. Polling in a further 2,200 villages and towns will be held Tuesday, but five districts in the north will not be held until mid-May. Katmandu and other areas of central Nepal will go to the polls April 3.

Observers said the local elections were important as the district Panchayats decide who sits in the zonal Panchayat. The zonal assemblies elect 112 of the 140 members of the unicameral Parliament, with the king allocating the remaining 28 seats. The local elections are also important because the local bodies are responsible for the spending of development funds, observers said.

SRI LANKA

23 Charged With Attempting To Overthrow Government

BK231127 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1116 GMT 23 Mar 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 23 (LANKA PUWATH)-Twenty-three persons were charged today in Colombo before High Court Judge D. Sunderalingam with attempting to overthrow the Sri Lankan Government, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. Only two of the ten accused present accepted the indictments.

The twenty-three are charged on 14 counts. They include trying to overthrow the government with violence, collection and possession of arms and explosives, armed revolution, sending persons to India for military training, and attempting to incite people against the government. The offences were alleged to have been committed between August 1, 1983 and April 30, 1986. The accused present were remanded till next April 3 (1987).

Accused Said Linked to JVP, EPRLF

BK230954 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 23 (AFP) — Twenty-three people, most of them members of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, were charged in the High Court here Monday with trying to overthrow the Sri Lankan Government. [passage omitted] Three members of the country's Tamil minority and one Moslem are among the accused.

The accused were said to belong to two ultra-leftist groups which broke away from the People's Liberation Front (JVP). The JVP led an insurrection in 1974 against then Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike's coalition government in which 1,200 persons were killed, according to the official count.

Some of the accused were also said to have had links with the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a Tamil separatist group fighting for an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The Tamil separatist conflict has claimed more than 5,000 lives in the past four years.

The accused include university teachers and the son of a former Sri Lankan ambassador.

The only woman accused, university teacher Pulsara Liyanage, accepted the indictment but asked for an English translation. T. Manikkalingam, a former student at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology and the son of a former ambassador, asked for a Tamil translation.

State counsel Kolitha Dharmawardene, who appeared for the prosecution, told the court that the other accused had either absconded or were out of the country. He said he wanted the police to again try and serve summons on them. The judge allowed the police until April 3, when the case will be called up next, to serve summons on the other 13 accused.

President Khamene'i Delivers New Year's Message
NC210832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0406 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to mark the beginning of the Iranian new year 1366 on 21 March; place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty. I sincerely congratulate all our dear compatriots, as well as our imam and great teacher, on the beginning of this auspicious new year and on the arrival of the prosperous spring season. I especially wish to congratulate the heroic combatants on the warfronts, the families of our martyrs, the selfless ones, our POW's, and the victims of the bombing of the cities.

This past year was full of adventures for our nation and country. It should be emphasized, of course, that it was also a year of victory and glory for our nation. Despite the numerous problems created by the enemies of the revolution and the nation during this past year, our nation — with its special heroism and bright faith — was able to overcome all difficulties. It was able to transform all the obstacles placed in the way of its progress into tools for its development and thereby utilize the situation to its benefit. This in fact was the wonder of the prayer that we and all pious people said last year at the beginning of the new year: O custodian of our faith and destinies, please make our conditions better. Despite all the plots, the situation in our country and our nation moved forward one more step toward being better.

In addition to the long military war that has been imposed on us for more than 6 years now, other wars in various fields have been imposed on us during this past year. One of these was the war of oil. However, our people were able to overcome this war through perseverance, economizing, and further efforts in the economic field. They patiently tolerated the shortages that resulted from this plot and transformed the obstacle that the enemy tried to create into a tool for victory and progress.

The savage and extensive bombing in the war of the cities, which had never before been as extensive or as sinister as last year, was unable to stop our people from their movement. Instead, it became an element for self- construction, perseverance, and determination, increasing daily in our nation. The people experienced the intensity of the enemies' hostility, and the warfront was extended deep within the country. The establishment and manning of positions turned into daily chores for many people in our cities. More than ever before the people realized that they must resist and that they must depend on themselves and on God. This has driven the enemy another step backward.

The political and propaganda wars instigated by our big enemies, especially the Great Satan, which you saw during the second half of this past year, became another front for our revolution and our nation. In this political struggle we also were the victors. With the nation's support, alert officials were able to neutralize the plots and make the enemy retreat from this front once again.

Despite extensive propaganda designed to isolate the Islamic Revolution and the administration of the Islamic Republic, our presence in the international arena was active, constructive, instructive, and bright, and culminated in great triumph, despite all conspiracies.

Even brighter and more striking than all these were the victories of our valiant combatants throughout the past year from "Karbala'-1" in the spring to "Karbala'-7" at the end of the winter. These victories took place on all the warfronts and on all the various sectors the length of the border. Our combatant forces, the Armed Forces, the [Revolution Guards] Corps, and the mobilization of the heroic people achieved massive victories, which they presented to the nation, once again confidently and resolutely convincing our enemies, both those within these borders and those in the world outside, of the validity of the revolution. The past year was the year of the divine test, a year of vicissitudes and tribulations of various kinds, which our nation endured with fortitude and resistance, patience and vigilance. As I said earlier, our nation transformed all obstacles into stepping stones on the way to attaining the objectives of the revolution. Hence the year 1365 was a year of triumph and glory for our nation. Now we stand on the brink of a new year, and repeat the same prayer, that God, who is lord of our hearts and our destinies, will bring us closer to himself and to the absolute one and enable us to reach a favorable position from the viewpoint of Islam. This is not possible except with the ever-increasing vigilance of our nation, the resistance and endurance of our fighting and combatant youths and our patient families, and further cooperation between the nation and the government in all fields, for the extensive construction of the country.

In the 8 years that have elapsed since the revolution, we have come a long way; we have surmounted many obstacles and difficulties, we have greatly advanced the revolution, and we have inflicted repeated and consecutive defeats on our enemies and made them encounter failure in the face of the revolution. At the same time, however, we have a long way to go.

The new year will be one of great efforts, and, God willing, greater successes and victories. This cannot be achieved without our reliance on God and without an all-embracing unity among all the strata, encompasing solidarity and unity among officials and the nation, and a multifaceted effort by these in authority and the people, God willing. The Almighty has promised that such efforts and such sincere resolution can only be attended by victory. I hope that by the end of this year we will be able to see better, happier, sweeter, and more beautiful days ahead of us. May God's blessings and benedictions be upon you.

Khomeyni Issues New Year's Address
NC210706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0354 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on the occasion of the Iranian new year 1366 on 21 March; place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] (?Lord of) our hearts and eyes, O creator of night and day, O custodian of our fate and destiny, please make our conditions better. [preceding sentence in Arabic] This year Nowruz has a special significance and is very auspicious for us. I congratulate the Muslims and the oppressed of the world and our combatant

nation. Praise be to God, the situation is such that the new year we are beginning has been preceded by dazzling victories, as we all know. I hope that God Almighty will bestow those victories destined for us. The advent of the new year coincides with the 13th Rajab [lunar calendar month, which is the anniversary of Imam 'Ali's birth] and the Ma'bas [date when Muhammad was made a prophet]. These festivals mark the great occasion when God's deputy, the noble and absolute one, was designated, and the birth anniversary of another of God's deputies. These great ones, who were together in their lifetimes, were united and were together in martyrdom and in this world. The one, in his mission, was the manifestation of the omniscient, and the other was the embodiment of the imamate. The imamate and the divine mission are two manifestations of their great spirituality, and this is the reason for their holiness. Thus, this important festival, this important day that falls between the two great anniversaries, this day of national rejoicing will be auspicious for us.

Having said that, I should say that we are between these two festivals. One is the festival of the sanctity of the holy amir ['Ali] and the other is the conferral on the prophet of his mission. These are among the most important milestones in Islam. These two great personages, who were together in their lifetimes and in the hereafter, were united. In this world they were joined by a fraternal bond, a bond of brotherhood. They were as one. This should be a lesson for us.

This Nowruz that you are celebrating falls between two festivals pertaining to the two personages who were always together in all ways. They were brothers. We should learn from this example. We must preserve our brotherhood. All those who are in charge must preserve this fraternal spirit.

They were together throughout their life on this earth and supported each other; the one imitated the other in his actions and was with him as his brother, in all undertakings. Thus, those in this country — in any strata and in any tribe, and especially the officials — should treat these great men as their models and preserve their fraternity. At this time in particular, if the fraternity of these people is harmed, Islam will be harmed. Therefore, the issue is an important one. We are facing a great and significant juncture. If we preserve our fraternity and if the Armed Forces, the [Revolution Guards] Corps, the Basij, and the tribal and other forces preserve their fraternity, we will have followed the example of our great prophets and will, God willing, attain happiness. If, God forbid, worldly desires emerge and men want to follow these urges and allow conflicts to arise between them, then you must know that we will lose everything in this world and in the hereafter.

Therefore, in this festival, at this point in time, on this new day and on this new year which is in the midst of two great feasts, we should imitate them [the prophets] and preserve our fraternity everywhere. I ask God Almighty to preserve this fraternity among all organs, among all the representatives of the Majlis, in the government and the judiciary, and among all the other people and strata. Let us imitate our great prophets so that, God willing, we may leave this world happily. The important point is that of wordly desires. Of all issues, it is man's worldly desires that entrap him. I ask God Almighty to help these Muslims and these leaders of Muslims to ensure that what they do is not based on worldly desires. Our nation has, thank God, come so far and achieved victories by giving its martyrs, by suffering its maimed or lost, and by sacrificing its youths, and also by keeping together and supporting each other. I hope that the people of this nation will continue to support each other and have this feeling of fraternity. Let us hope that this new day will be a happy one for all sectors of our society. May those people, namely Iranians, who have, until now, baselessy opposed the Islamic Republic, cease their opposition from now on and act as God wants. What God wants today is for Islam to cast its rays everywhere. This means that every one of you, in all strata, all those who, within the country, oppose or who have opposed or who are abroad and oppose these sentiments, should be alert and give up their pursuit of worldly desires. God will then bring prosperity to all strata and make them successful in their duties to Islam, the nation, and the Muslims. May God's blessings and benedictions be upon you.

Foreign Powers Warned Against 'Interference'

LD221209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Commenting on the United States and certain Arab countries' excuses to increase the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, as well as the welcoming attitude adopted by some neighboring states concerning the buildup of the U.S. naval presence in the region, our Foreign Ministry spokesman said:

In recent days, some baseless reports regarding Iran's intention to threaten the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf have been dispatched. In conjunction with this misleading propaganda, America has already laid the groundwork to achieve her expansionist and hegemonistic intentions, aiming to build up her military presence in the region.

He added: It is clear to everyone that attacking oil tankers and commercial vessels, as well as disrupting oil exports was a policy initiated by the Baghdad regime, aimed at escalating the war in the region. This policy has been continuing until the present time. From the beginning, however the Islamic Republic of Iran, kept warning against Saddam's adventurism and the perilous consequences, emphasizing that the security of shipping, in line with keeping oil exports steady, must apply to all countries of the region.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the Iraqi regime to be the central factor in creating this tension and causing insecurity in the region, it has therefore deployed all its legitimate means to stem the cause of tension and instability, and will continue to do so. It has also repeatedly stated that navigation in these important waters must continue without any disruption. As the largest and most powerful country in the region, Iran has played an outstanding role in order to make it secure.

The spokesman then continued: Despite the fact that America has repeatedly created such climates in order to achieve its own sinister objectives and build up its military presence in the region, the point is that this time the interesting issue is the treacherous response demonstrated by some countries of the region. These countries, contrary to their national and regional commitments and the Islamic aspirations of the peoples of the Persian Gulf,

consider such a presence as not simply confined to the countries and peoples of the region, but rather to apply to all countries and, in fact, the arrogant powers, which have the capability of enjoying this military presence.

He then added: When one compares this response to these countries' ethnic claims — as they even try to change the name of this historic and genuine waterway — then one realizes that behind this nationalistic and ethnic clamor lies subservience to America and the big powers. Needless to say, the peoples of the region will not accept becoming mercenaries of America. Consequently, the ruling cliques in these countries must be held answerable before their nations, the peoples of the region, and other Muslims in the world.

Concluding his remarks, the Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated that the security of the Persian Gulf is considered to be all-embracing and indivisible; that its maintainance is the responsibility of all regional peoples. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the country enjoying the longest coast in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, will decisively counter any foreign powers' presence which leads to increasing instability and tension in the region. The Islamic Republic therefore warns America and other foreign powers that any interference by them, aimed mainly at saving the declining Saddam regime, will be met by a strong response by the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Muslims in the world. Naturally, the responsibility for the dangerous consequences of this interference is to be shouldered by the big powers and their hosts.

Report on 'Irangate' To Clarify Unanswered Questions

LD201753 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 20 Mar 87

["Reagan a Liar Under Perjury — President Khamene'i" — IRNA headline; single quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — On the eve of the Iranian New Year (March 21) Iran's President Khamene'i said here Friday that the Iranian calendar year 1365 (March 21, 1986-March 20, 1987) was crucial in the Iraq-Iran war since it brought Iran military victories in the battlefronts and political victories in the international scene.

He said as a result of Iran's continued blows upon Iraqi forces throughout the battlefronts and also because of its steadfast resistance against Iraqi attacks during the past Iranian year, political circles in the four corners of the globe for the first time suggested the ousting of Saddam as the only remaining alternative for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

President Khamene'i who was sermonizing to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University and as leader of the Friday congregational prayers at noontide also said during his sermons that the Iranian calendar year 1365 had been an ominous period for Washington and for President Reagan personally because of his political bloopers in flirting with the Islamic Government.

Khamene'i called the report of the Tower Commission as facts mixed with fiction in order to save Reagan and acquit him of the charges against him.

The Iranian president said the Islamic Republic is shortly to release a report on the Irangate which will include facts deliberately omitted by the Tower Commission casting light on unanswered questions in relation with the fiasco of Washington's abortive rapprochement with Iran.

He accused Reagan as having been a liar under perjury since in his Thursday talks to reporters he had lied in connection with the Irangate despite his commitment to tell the truth.

President Khamene'i said Ronald Reagan's self-contradicting statements in relation with the story and his admission that some 20 million dollars had been somehow lost (in an intended arms deal with Iran) betrays his personal confusion as well as 'corruption' within the walls of the White House.

The Iranian president said Reagan had taken the risk 'with high hopes' but that he played a losing game bringing him only frustration, and casting discredit on him as head of a state.

Khamene'i said the Americans had ventured on the risky move also with an eye to finding themselves a solid foothold in Iran as a neighbor country of the Soviet Union. He said the Americans entered the game with ambitious goals but that 'they left the playing field with broken legs'.

President Khamene'i lauded Iran's foreign policy dictum which he asserted is based on independence from the two poles of power and reassured the masses that any political move whatsoever, by Iran's Muslim people, and conceived with Islam and with the divine dictates is certain to succeed and that plots against them by unbelievers, powerful as they may be, are doomed to fall through.

Issue of Iranian Hostages in Lebanon 'Reemerging'

LD231128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports the following from Beirut:

At a time when in 2 months time International Jerusalem Day is to be marked, the issue of the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats in Lebanon is reemerging in the world press. The Iranian diplomats were kidnapped by the Phalangists when Israel was laying seige to the Muslim sector of Beirut. Since 1982 no official information has been made available concerning the nature of their kidnapping.

The Iranian diplomats were the first officials to be kidnapped in Lebanon. As for their families, they have been waiting for their return for over 5 years. Recently, the archbishop of Canterbury stated that he is prepared to mediate, providing measures are taken to have Terry Waite released; Terry Waite was taken hostage by Lebanese groups. It ought to be recalled that Terry Waite was taken hostage by an armed Lebanese group, calling

itself the Revolutionary Justice Organization. He has been accused of espionage.

The Central News Unit report from Beirut adds that the names of the Iranian diplomats who were taken hostage 5 years ago by the Phalangists, backed by Israel, are often mentioned by Lebanese people in Beirut, Tripoli, Al-Biqa', and southern Lebanon. The Lebanese people are expected to carry their portraits, along with the portraits of the Islamic Revolution martyrs in Lebanon, such as martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb, during their demonstrations marking International Jerusalem Day.

Communique No 2,781 Reports Iraqi Oil Platform Hit

LD201713 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — Iraq's Al-'Amayah platform came under Iranian artillery fire Thursday morning sustaining some losses, according to the Joint Staff Communique Number 2,781 here Friday.

The communique said that heavy artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Iraqi positions and strongholds in parts of the western and southern fronts destroyed several Iraqi gun emplacements and killed or wounded about 22 enemy soldiers.

Iranian Muslim forces despatched at least 14 patrol units to "Karbala'-7" operational region Thursday who controlled Iraqi engineering activities as well as movements of enemy motorized and infantry units destroying three military bases of the Ba'thist troops, the communique said.

Artillery of the Iranian forces targeted Iraqi positions and strongholds throughout the western fronts Thursday and Friday, with Muslim combatants halting movement of an Iraqi armoured unit in Mehran operational region, inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy tanks.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in southern fronts raging more heavily in Kushk and Faqqeh Thursday. Iraqi engineering activities in Basra operational were disrupted by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants who also checked all reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Pich-e Angizeh and Yabis, according to the communique.

No 2,782 Details Iraqi 'Heavy Losses'

LD211602 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment in artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran throughout the fronts Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,782 said that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several bunkers and observation posts in the western fronts Friday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

In the southern fronts Friday, exchange of artillery fire raged more heavily in Kushk and Zeydi and Muslim combatants of Iran by reconnoitering and shelling Iraqi positions and supply routes killed or wounded some enemy soldiers.

A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Chazzabeh, southern fronts, was forced to flee by artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Friday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 12 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board, the communique concluded.

No 2,783 Reports Ships Intercepted

LD221644 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — Effective artillery fire of the Iranian combatants on several Iraqi motorized columns in northwestern fronts Saturday, destroyed at least 10 Iraqi vehicles and killed or wounded more than 35 enemy soldiers. Two Iraqi munitions depots were also set afire in Hajj 'Umran, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique No 2,783 said that Iranian Navy intercepted five foreign ships in Hormuz Strait Saturday but no suspicious cases were observed.

Movements of heavy Iraqi engineering vehicles in the Panjwin operational region were checked by Iranian artillery fire, while exchange of artillery fire raged more heavily in Kushk and Bubiyan regions in the southern fronts.

In the western fronts, artillery fire of the Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions and strongholds destroyed parts of them, killing a number of enemy troops. Iranian patrols also destroyed more than five enemy gun emplacements and watch posts as well as a truck in the region.

Iraqi mortar and tank fire in Nahr-e 'Anbar, 'Eyn Khvosh and in the area west of Jofeyr was silenced by Iranian forces, who destroyed several Iraqi tanks.

An enemy tank was totally smashed in Hoseyniyeh region, and reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters over Majnun islands and Hoseyniyeh were checked.

Artillery fire of the Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Iraqi positions in parts of western and southern fronts set ablaze a jeep, a munitions dump, and several gun emplacements, the communique concluded.